

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-01 CCO-00 SCCT-01 SY-02 FBIE-00

EURE-00 EB-03 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-03 USSS-00

A-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 AF-04 ARA-09

OMB-01 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 PRS-01 L-02 DRC-01

DODE-00 /087 W

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P R 071310Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3766

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T MILAN 1427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON ITT SUBSIDIARIES MILAN, OCT 6.

1. DURING EARLY MORNING OCT 6 GROUP OF FOUR TERRORISTS INVADED FACE-STANDARD, LOCAL ITT COMMUNICATIONS SUBSIDIARY, AND SET FIRE TO WAREHOUSE RESULTING IN LOSS PUT AT ABOUT \$9 MILLION. SAME EVENING AVIS MILAN OFFICES ALSO BOMBED WITH DAMAGE REPORTED TO BE \$15,000.

2. PERPETRATORS CLAIM TO BE COMMUNISTS AND EXPLAIN THAT THESE ACTS UNDERTAKEN TO REVENGE DEATH OF CHILEAN COMRADES BY PINOCHET AND TO PROTEST ITT'S POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF GOLP.

3. I CALLED ON PREFECT PETRICCIONE THIS MORNING TO ASK HIS ESTIMATE OF SITUATION. PETRICCIONE TOOK VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF MATTER. HE CONTENDED THAT ATTACK ON FACE STANDARD WAS DANGEROUS INNOVATION IN ITALY. IT WAS ECONOMIC WARFARE TO WHICH NORTHERN ITALY PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE IN VIEW OF COUNTLESS WAREHOUSES AND PLANTS WHICH COULD NEVER BE FULLY SAFEGUARDED. THIS WAS SERIOUS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THREAT TO ITALIAN INDUSTRY,

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BUT BECAUSE OF IMPACT IT COULD HAVE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN

ITALY.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, PETRICCIONE SAID, HE IS MOUNTING FULL SCALE EFFORT TO CATCH THE CULPRITS. HE WARNED THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHO IS BEHIND THIS ATTACK AND ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON ITALIAN PRISONS OF LAST WEEK - IT COULD BE EITHER EXTREME LEFT OR EXTREME RIGHT. BUT POLICE ARE CONVINCED THAT SAME GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH PRISON AND ITT ATTACKS AND THAT VERY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY INVOLVED. SO FAR, INVESTIGATION OF PRISON PLOT SHOWS THAT EQUIPMENT ALONE COST \$900,000 (IF I HEARD RIGHTLY).

5. AT THIS JUNCTURE, POLICE HAVE ISSUED WARRANTS FOR ARREST OF SEVERAL SUSPECTS AND PETRICCIONE SAYS THAT IF THE HALF DOZEN PARTICIPANTS ARE ARRESTED, THE GROUP WILL BE BROKEN UP, SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS A LARGE ORGANIZATION IN ITALY. HE DOUBTS COMMUNIST PARTY INVOLVEMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT PCI DAILY HAS ALREADY CONDEMNED THE ATTACK.

6. AMONG CONSPIRATORS, POLICE THINK THERE IS ONE FOREIGNER - LATIN AMERICAN OR ARAB - AND THIS COULD BE LINK TO FINANCING THROUGH SWISS BANKS. ARAB CONNECTION WOULD BE MOTIVATED BY PRO-ISRAEL POSITION OF ITT EXECUTIVE OR EXECUTIVES ACCORDING TO PETRICCIONE. ITALIAN INVOLVEMENT PROBABLY TIED TO EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT OR LEFT, IN HIS VIEW.

7. PREFECT ADDED THAT ANY US INTELLIGENCE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY WELCOME. HE SAID THAT DUE TO SCANDAL IN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, THEY WERE NOW VIRTUALLY USELESS TO HIM. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD AS PRIMARY TASK UPON ASSIGNMENT TO MILAN THE REPRESSION OF TERRORISM OF RIGHT OR LEFT AND HE WAS DETERMINED TO SUCCEED, NO MATTER WHOSE TOES WERE STEPPED ON IN THE PROCESS. FINA

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